

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /079 W

-----062315Z 091297 /70

P R 062251Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3820

AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 2267

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SF, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN MISSION TO TRANSKEI

REF: DURBAN 189

1. ECUADOREAN PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO AFP STORY  
DATELINED UMTATA APRIL 5, REPORTING ALONG LINES COVEYED IN  
REFTEL. FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON APRIL 6,  
AS FOLLOWS:

"IN REGARD TO THE NEWS APPEARING IN THE LOCAL PRESS  
CONCERNING A SUPPOSED VISIT OF AN OFFICIAL ECUADOREAN  
MISSION TO TRANSKEI, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IN-  
FORMS THAT IT HAS NOT ACCREDITED ANY OFFICIAL MISSION  
ENCHARGED WITH POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT REGION OF  
AFRICA. ECUADOR WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT CHANGE ITS FOREIGN  
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POLICY EXPRESSED IN THE PERTINENT RESOLUTION OF THE LAST  
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING THE CASE OF THE SO-CALLED  
"INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI."

2. POLCOUNS CALLED ON ACTING DIRECTOR OF FONOFF'S  
POLITICAL BUREAU JORGE LASSO AND DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS MARIO ALEMAN ON APRIL 6 CONCERNING TRANSKEI.

THEY INSISTED THAT FONOFF KNEW NOTHING OF THE VISIT UNTIL THE AFP STORY APPEARED AND VEHEMENTLY DENIED THAT THE MISSION HAD ANY OFFICIAL CHARACTER. THEY SAID THAT ECUADOR HAS NO PLANS TO RECOGNIZE OR DO ANYTHING ELSE TO BROADEN RELATIONS WITH EITHER TRANSKEI OR SOUTH AFRICA. ALEMAN REVEALED THAT HE HAD HEARD THE ECUADOREAN GROUP WENT TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS PURPOSES. SINCE MALDONADO, A RETIRED ADMIRAL, IS AN INTIMATE OF ECUADOREAN CHIEF OF STATE ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA, ALEMAN SPECULATED THAT MALDONADO MAY HAVE CARRIED SOME SORT OF LETTER OF INTRODUCTION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM POVEDA TO FACILITATE HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS. EITHER BY ACCIDENT OR DESIGN, THE PRIVATE EXCHANGE WAS THEN COVERTED INTO AN OFFICIAL ENTERPRISE THROUGH DISTORTION OR MISINTERPRETATION.

3. COMMENT: ALEMAN'S EXPLANATION SEEMS PLAUSIBLE. ECUADOR HAS CONSISTENTLY VOTED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, RECENTLY REJECTED SOUTH AFRICAN OFFERS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULATE IN GUAYAQUIL, AND HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT IT IS INTERESTED IN CHANGING ITS POLICY. BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TRANSKEI, VISITS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 DURBAN 189  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009